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PART ONE: SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP OF RESEARCH ON FOREIGN POLICY AND

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State Department Procedures for Reviewing Government Sponsored Foreign Area Research

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Last year a number of events drew attention both to the increasing role of the federal government as a sponsor (mainly by contracts with persons and institutions outside the government) of social science research related to foreign affairs and to some of the problems associated with this sponsorship. In June, an ambitious outline of a study of the social roots of political instability, financed by the Army and named project CAMELOT, provoked such hostile reaction in Chile, where it was discussed by an indiscreet consultant to the study designers, and elsewhere, that the Defense Department felt compelled to cancel it. In early August, President Johnson, noting that some federally-supported social science research could "raise problems affecting the conduct of our foreign policy," asked the Secretary of State to take steps to "assure the propriety of Government-sponsored social science research in the area of foreign policy." On November 18, 1965, after weeks of internal discussions and consultations with other agencies, the State Department issued a set of procedures for its review of "possible adverse effects upon foreign relations" of Government-sponsored research.¹

These developments have been accompanied by controversy, some of it resulting from misunderstandings of the facts of the matter and some of it stemming from legitimate differences of opinion on important issues of public policy affecting both the government and the academic community. In the year since CAMELOT, however, there has been a growing recognition that certain types of U.S. government support for social science re-

¹The text of the procedures was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, Vol. 31, No. 7, January 12, 1966.

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